

## **LITTLE BUDWORTH W.I. FEBRUARY NEWS**

President Beryl Worrall welcomed everyone to our February meeting and the following items were discussed. Four of our members will be entering a County W.I. quiz at Byley on the 21<sup>st</sup> February and the following day several members will be visiting the Empire Theatre, Liverpool to see Thoroughly Modern Millie. The Annual Council Meeting is on the 7<sup>th</sup> March at the Lifestyle Centre, Winsford where Jennie Williams, a fraud protection officer, will be speaking in the morning and in the afternoon Derek Poulson will give a witty talk on regional accents.

One of our members, Angela Wilson, will be showing her dog Lily in the Rally Obedience section at Crufts on the 9<sup>th</sup> March. We wish her the very best of luck and maybe see her and Lily on the television.

Our very popular annual Cheese and Wine evening will be held on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May, more details later, and another date for your diary is 1<sup>st</sup> July, when members will be serving refreshments at the Village Green Fair.

Beryl then introduced our speaker Chris Prior from the Shropshire and Staffordshire Blood Bikes. Chris then gave an illustrated and informative talk on this charity which is run by volunteers. It was started in 1962 by Margaret Ryerson and supports the NHS free of charge providing urgent transportation of blood and life saving medical supplies as well as delivering donated breast milk to neo natal units in hospitals and to private houses.

The National Association of Blood Bikes was founded in 2010 and the SSBB followed in January 2014. There are twelve bikes in the SSBB and they all have names, most of them are kept at the hospitals but some at private houses and the deliveries are usually region by region although in some cases the bikers can complete the whole journey through more than one county. The SSBB have made over 5,000 deliveries to date at around 75,000 volunteer hours and saving the NHS in excess of £100,000 per annum. Riders have to take an Advanced Motorcycle Test and pay an annual membership of £10. They go on training courses to familiarise themselves with the possible journeys they might have to make and on blood handling courses. The Controllers are based at home and are in touch with riders via a series of text messages and online trackers. It costs around £8,000 a year to run a Blood Bike and the SSBB can only provide this vital service with the help of donations.

Chris Prior was thanked by Sandy McKnight.

The evening was rounded off with refreshments being served by Carol Mason and Karen Hartley.

On Wednesday March 8<sup>th</sup> Mike Hasprey will be coming to show Video Photography. This will be ten or eleven separately presented short films on documentaries, stories and comedies.

The meeting starts at 7.30pm and visitors are most welcome.

